

WILLIAM F. BENEFIEL.

FEBRUARY 1, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. FULLER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 807.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 807) granting an increase of pension to William F. Benefiel, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to increase the pension of the soldier named therein from \$12 to \$30 per month.

This soldier, who is now 74 years of age, was an unassigned private of the First Indiana Heavy Artillery, serving from September 15, 1864, to May 18, 1865, when honorably discharged.

He never applied for a pension under the general law, but is now and has been since July 10, 1890, a pensioner under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total inability to earn a support by manual labor, the result of nearly total deafness of the left ear and injury of right leg.

This allowance was based upon a certificate of medical examination made May 13, 1891, which examination found nearly total deafness of left ear and a partial paralysis of the right leg, caused by an injury to the hip by being forcibly drawn out of a wagon by a runaway team; also a fracture of the lower third of the tibia and fibula from the same accident.

Medical and other testimony filed with your committee sets forth that the beneficiary has been paralyzed in his lower limbs for a number of years to such an extent that he can hardly get around in a wheel chair; that for the past three years he has been totally unable to attend to his profession; that he is helpless, and that he has no property except a small house and lot worth about \$600 and encumbered by \$300, and no other means of support except the pension of \$12 per month.

In the light of numerous precedents the increase sought for in this bill is justified, it being shown that the soldier is quite aged, helpless from paralysis, and in destitute circumstances.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended when the same shall have been amended as follows:

In line 6, before the word "unassigned," strike out the word "of."

In same line strike out the word "company."

